



# Being with Jesus:

## A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 5  
The Mighty Widow

Day 6

### Scripture

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. — John 13:1-17

### Reflection

John chapter 13 gives us an incredible picture of Jesus. He is the disciples' teacher, master, and Lord, and yet He kneels down to their dirty, road-filthy feet. God takes on the role of a servant. This is amazing in itself, but the timing makes it even more remarkable. We're talking about the Last Supper here. Jesus is dealing with all the stress of knowing what's coming next. He's about to be betrayed by His friends and unjustly murdered. He's about to take on Himself the sin of all mankind. If anyone could take a night off from serving, it would be Jesus.

Instead, Jesus sets an example that His disciples are to follow. Christians are servants. If you say you are a Christian, but don't serve others, you're wrong. Jesus served, and so we are honored to follow His example.

Sometimes the difficulty of life makes us want to serve less. We feel the pull towards selfishness to release some of the stress. Timothy Keller writes in response to this, "Even if our own troubles are great, we should still serve. Jesus washed His disciples feet on the way to the cross." Jesus is our model, and we should follow His example. In the kingdom of God, the path to greatness is through humility and service. May we take that path.

### Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for serving humankind. Thank You for serving even when Your own stress and trouble was so great. Help me to do the same. Help me to chase greatness by seeking a life of humility and service to others. Amen.

### Questions

Have you ever had someone serve you in such a way that you felt undeserving?

When do you least feel like serving?

How does Jesus example inspire you to serve?